gard and the steps taken by the Government n the matter so that no patient should be heated by these companies ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) :

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

New drug policy and foreign multinational companies

1307. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 458 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 24th February, 1994, and state ;

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have allowed foreign Multi-national companies to enter the field of drugs in the country in a big way if so, whether any proposals have been received and approved by the Government so far ; and

(b) what are the reasons for non-availability of essential drugs even after the recent hike and steps taken to ensure regular supply thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) There has been no change in the Drug Policy, 1986 in respect of foreign equity participation. Companies with direct foreign equity upto 40% are on par with wholly Indian companies. The activities of the companies with foreign equity more than 40% are restricted to the 66 bulk drugs as listed at Annexure—'A' in Drug Policy, 1986.

(b) No general shortage of life saving drugs, except localised shortages of some particular branded formulations have been reported from time to time. Even in such instances of temporary shortages, therapeutic equivalents of medicines are normally available.

Study of BICP on drug formulations and pricing

1308. DR. NAUNIHAL SINGH :
SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD :

Will the MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 458 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 24th February, 1994 ; and state ;

(a) whether it is a fact that delay in the announcement of the New Drug Policy is attributed to a corresponding delay on the part of Bureau of Industrial Costs and Prices in completing its studies on drug formulation and pricing ;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the BICP has already submitted a part of the report and if so, how soon Government expects the full report to be in its hands ;

(c) whether Government contemplates recommending interim/provisional prices for drugs in case of further delay in the submission of BICP study reports ; and

(d) whether it is also a fact that the policy had been referred to the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Price fixation/revision of bulk drugs is an ongoing exercise and the effort is on to clear the backing and fix the price in consultation with BICP.

(d) The Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers was required to finalize its views.

Revision of ceiliig prices of formulation

1309. SHRIMATI SATYA BAHIN : Will the MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) what are the details of ceilling prices of formulations which have not been revised for the last three to five years ;

(b) what are the ceilling prices of formulations which have been revised on suomoto basis after DPCO, 1987 and what are those where BICP refused to do so ;

(c) whether it is a fact that there is a constant corruption in the BICP and the Ministry and undue benefits have been given to the formulatiors at the cost of consumer ;

(d) what steps have been taken to look into and revise the prices of Ranitidine, Cemitidine, Chloramphenicol and several other drugs where market prices are lower than notified prices ; and

(e) whether it is also a fact that in certain instances the Ministry has reduced formulations prices based on market prices of bulk drugs whereas in others they have refused to do so under pressure from the producers ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) (b) and (c) The prices of bulk drugs and formulations are fixed/revised in accordance with objectives/provisions of DPCO 1987. Price revision in cases of formulations, including those notified as ceiling packs, is an ongoing work and is normally done on receipt of applications from manufacturers.

However, in cases where the Government notifies the revised price for a bulk drug or if there is change in custom duty on an imported bulk drug, suo-moto revision of formulation based on that bulk drug are undertaken.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) BICP has initiated cost-cum-technical studies to fix/revise the prices of Ranitidine, Cemitidine, Chloramphenicol and other drugs.

Proposal to Reduce Air Travel Tax

1310. SHRI NARAIN PRASAD GUPTA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) Whether a new entrant among the private airlines have reduced its fares as also the Indian Airlines on some of the sectors in South, as reported in Indian Express of 6th December, 1993;

(b) if so, the precise details of the reduction in taxes and the impact on the market alongwith the rationable;

(c) whether there is any proposal to reduce the air travel tax other levies by the National Airports Authority of India and the price undercutting on other sectors; and

(d) whether Government agrees with the view that there is a fare war among the private carriers and may lead to pre 1953 conditions and the action plan thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVAITION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) and (b) Under the existing air taxi guidelines, there is no restriction on the fare to be charged by air taxi operators. Indian Airlines offers special fares on specific sectors depending on the market situation.

(c) and (d) No, Sir.

Saving of Liquor by Private Airlines

1311. SHRI NARAIN PRASAD GUPTA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whather Government's attention has been drawn to the news item reported in, various newspapers in January this year regarding safety code for air taxis;

(b) if so, the precise new as well old safety guidelines;

(c) what are the guidelines given to the public sector Indian Airlines and how they differ with those in the private sector; and

(d) whether some of the private airlines have been permitted to serve hard liquor and beer; if so, what are the results of such service in getting more passengers or in creations difficulties for co-passengers, including ladies/children who do not drank and the nature of complaints received alongwith action taken ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The safety requirements are under close review to meet general and specific requirements. There is no difference in safety requirements between public sector and private sector operators.

(d) The Aircraft Rules, 1937, do not prohibit serving of liquor during flights. The air carriers are expected to ensure that passengers are not inconvenienced due to serving of liquor on board.

Proposal for Medium Aircraft

1312. SHRI NARAIN PRASAD GUPTA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether his Ministry has examined the proposal to bring in medium size aircraft with the help of NRI's as suggested by him at a seminar in Delhi on December 28, 1993;